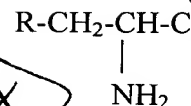
said detection agent being an L-amino acid of following general formula (I):

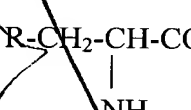


in which:

- R represents a cyclic amino acid radical, substituted with 1 to 3 groups X, which are identical or different,
- X represents a group which limits the diffusion in the culture medium of the α-keto acid produced by the deamination of the cyclic amino acid.

28. (Amended) Method according to claim 22, wherein the microorganisms which are detected and identified and/or quantified by enzymatic activity belong to the group *Proteus*.

30. (Amended) Compound having the general formula (I):



in which:

- R represents a cyclic amino acid radical, substituted with 2 or 3 groups X, which are identical or different,
- X represents a group which limits the diffusion in the culture medium of the α-keto acid produced by the deamination of the cyclic amino acid.

39. (Amended) Culture medium according to claim 37, wherein weight concentration of the detection agent(s) is between 0.1 and 2 g/l.

40. (Amended) Culture medium according to claim 37, further comprising a revealing agent.

Please add new claims 43-47 as follows:

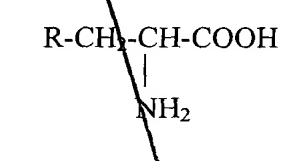
--43. (Added) Method according to claim 22, wherein X represents a group that associates with or binds to constituents of the cells of the microorganisms to limit diffusion.--

--44. (Added) Method according to claim 23, wherein X represents a group that limits diffusion in hydrophilic medium.--

--45. (Added) Compound according to claim 30, wherein X represents a group that associates with or binds to constituents of the cells of the microorganisms to limit diffusion.--

--46. (Added) Compound according to claim 31, wherein X represents a group that limits diffusion in hydrophilic medium.--

--47. (Added) Compound having the general formula (I):



(I)

in which:

R represents a cyclic amino acid radical, substituted with 1 group X,

X represents:

any group of hydrophobic type which limits the diffusion of the α-keto acid produced by the deamination of the cyclic amino acid, in a hydrophobic medium, or

any group which makes it possible to bind to constituents of the cells of the microorganisms,

with the exception of the compounds N-im-benzyl-L-histidine, 1- and 3-methyl-L-histidine, o-benzyl-L-tyrosine, o-carboxybenzoyl-L-tyrosine, o-dansyl-L-tyrosine, o-methyl-L-tyrosine and 1-, 4-, 5-, 6- and 7-methyl-L-tryptophan.--

REMARKS

Claims 22-47 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 22, 28, 30, 39 and 40 are amended and claims 43-47 are added. No new matter is added.